

# VAland

## Numbers

The VA has **26 FVC members**, 22 of which completed surveys as current volunteers and four of which are new volunteers who signed up at the FVC Kickoff.

- Of the 22, 14 are VA employees and eight are volunteers who work regularly at the VA, typically for ten or more hours a week.
  - Many of these are former Federal employees, often from the military.
  - Due to staffing shortages, VA volunteers perform some regular staff duties for patients. Thus, they have been granted associate FVC status.
1. The most popular cause selected by survey participants was **Federal programs (25)**, which include the VA volunteer program. Next came **Health (8)**, **Religious (4)**, **Children and Local (3 each)**, and **Disadvantaged (1)**.
  2. Twenty volunteers reported an **average of 394 annual hours** and 21 volunteers reported an **average of seven volunteer years**.
  3. The six who reported number of people helped **averaged 288 individuals assisted**.
  4. Volunteering in the **home city (59%)** was preferred to volunteering in the **work city (45%)**.

## Correlations

Two weak correlations occurred.

- At the 69% level, **volunteer hours** correlated with those selecting **religious as a reason** for volunteering.
- At the 71% level, **number of people helped** correlated with **volunteer hours**.

## Stories (all Federal employees)

Debbie Chamber of the **downtown Ambulatory Care Center** has helped the **American Legion** about **15 hours yearly** for the **last two years**, to make the world better and to feel good about herself doing it. In her words, "One of our clinic's veteran/volunteer/American Legion 40/8 members needs assistance with typing or sometimes editing of his letters, so I help him. I also assist him with posters or anything else that he needs help with." Debbie's work shows it does not take a huge time investment to contribute as a volunteer.  
She also donates blood once or twice a year.

Edward Keeley of the *West Los Angeles* post of duty has donated 300 hours a year to the *Civil Air Patrol* in Pasadena for the last ten years, thereby helping many people. His reasons for volunteering are

1. Love to teach,
2. Feel good about myself doing it,
3. Increase my skills and knowledge, and
4. Make the world better.

He also contributes a quart of blood a year.

Decorated former Marine Ralph "Sugar Bear" Sarabia (downtown facility) has spent the last **ten years** volunteering to help other veterans.

- He gives **130 hours yearly** to the City of Commerce *Veterans Memorial Park* and **30 hours a year** to the *downtown VA facility* as an entertainer.
- He also donates blood yearly.

He volunteers because he feels good about himself doing it.

He is a professional singer who composes and performs his own songs. At the FVC Kickoff, his excellent singing of the National Anthem and of his own music was very favorably received!

- **Our final volunteer, from the *West LA. facility*, through his church, has given 60 hours annually for the last 13 years to an outreach program in which he mentors prisoners.**
- **He gives blood four times a year and has contributed 30 hours each year to *Angel Tree*.**
- **His main reason is religious, with the other three reasons carrying secondary weight: feel good about myself doing it, make the world better, and increase skills and knowledge.**
- **This volunteer, who prefers to remain anonymous, also contributed many hours to making the FVC Kickoff a success.**

## Reasons for Volunteering

As the [chart](#) indicates, [make the world better](#) was chosen by the most volunteers, closely followed by [feel good about myself doing it](#), which received the most number-one rankings.

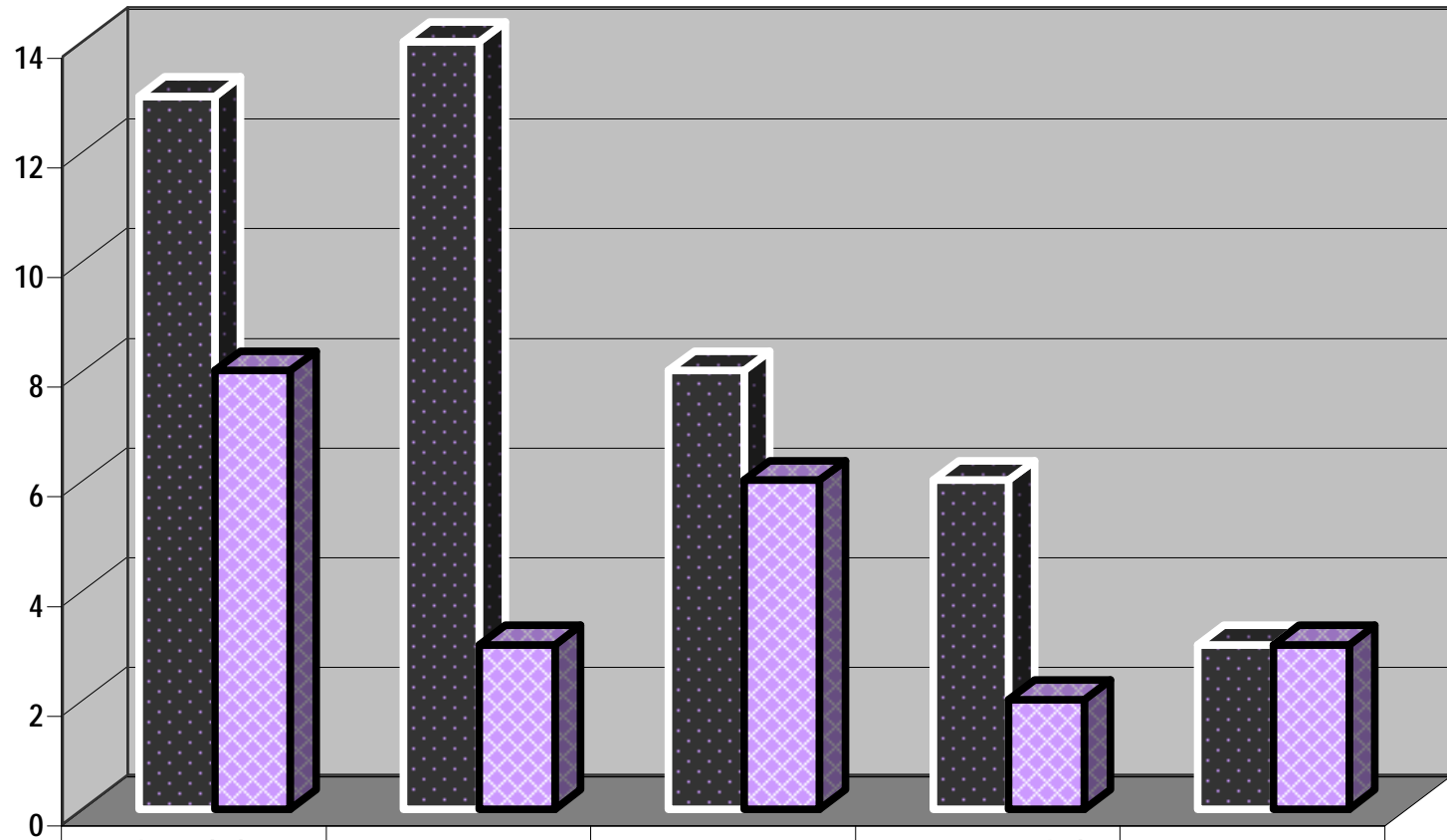


The ultimate aim of the hero's quest must be  
neither release nor ecstasy for oneself,  
but the wisdom and power to serve others.

Joseph Campbell

VA Reasons for Volunteering

■ # of Replies   ■ #1 rankg



■ # of Replies	13	14	8	6	3
■ #1 rankg	8	3	6	2	3